REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 21, 28, 35 and 42 are the independent claims. This Amendment amends claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 10-21, and 25, 26, 28, 35, 41, and 42, adds claims 46-60, and addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the examiner for initialing the Information Disclosure Statement filed April 12, 2004.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant has amended the specification and FIG. 4 to correct obvious errors. No new matter is added.

The specification is also amended to identify the priority claim, which was previously acknowledged by the Patent Office on the Filing Receipt dated October 28, 2003. As the priority claim has already been recognized by the Office, no petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78 or fee is required. *See* OG Notice, 18 March 2003: "Claiming the Benefit of a Prior-Filed Application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, and 365(c)," Part IV.

Claims 16-19 and 25 were objected to because of informalities in the dependency of the claims. Applicant has amended these claims to correct the informalities. Dependency corrections have also been made to claims 12-15, 20, and 26.

Applicant has broadened independent claims 1, 11, 35, and 42. Specifically, the subject matter regarding the setting of the various properties of the company object has be moved into new claims 46, 50, 56, and 60, with each of these independent claims being amended to refer more generally to a setting of at least one property of the company object. To harmonize antecedence, claims 2 and 3 are amended to depend from claim 46, and claims 12 and 13 are amended to depend from claims 50. Additionally, Applicant amends claims 4, 10, 14, 20, and 41 to replace "desired company database" with "business database."
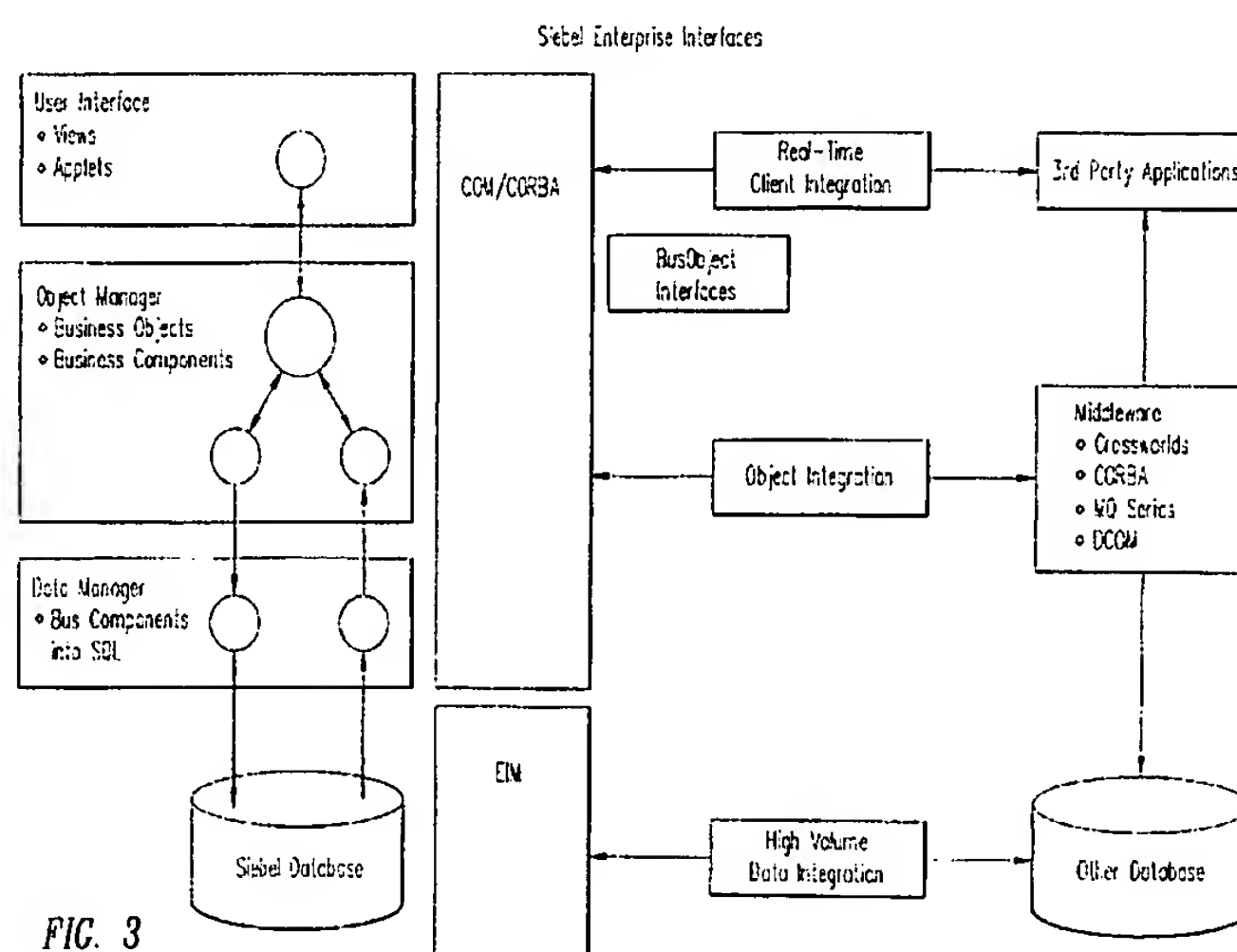
Claims 21 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0161734 A1 to Stauber *et al.* ("Stauber"). Claims 1-20, 22-27 and 29-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stauber in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0097457 A1 to Saran *et al.* ("Saran"). Claims 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

as being unpatentable over Stauber and Saran in further view of U.S Patent No. 6,748,388 B1 to Kasamesetty *et al.* ("Kasamsetty").

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, 21, 28, 35, and 42 to describe that the company object is on a client system. By having the complete business logic resident on the client side, linked with the client application, there is no need for out-of-process calls and the accompanying network round trips. For example, it becomes possible to instantiate the company object without the need to go to a server-side repository to obtain an interface or to fetch instantiation data. This substantially improves the performance of the client application and facilitates using different versions for the business logic component side-by-side with different versions of the client application.

The client-side aspect of the claims is further emphasized in newly-added dependent claims 48, 52, and 58, which describe that the company object is instantiated in a data interface API, the API being a DLL on the client system, and newly added claim 54, which describes the API as a DLL on the client system.

In comparison, the component architecture in Stauber divides objects across tiered layers, with one layer resident on a client and the other layers resident on the database server.

FIG. 3

While the Applet Manager (111, 211) providing the user interface is resident on the client side (*see* Stauber para. 0068), the layer handling the business objects (Object Manager 121, 221) and containing the business logic is resident on the server side; *e.g.,* "The Business Object Layer is resident on the server in the system, method, and program product of our invention." *See*

Stauber paras. 0060, 0081. Applets (client) and business objects (server) are both obtained from a server-side object repository (*see* Stauber Fig. 2 and paras. 0114, 0137), and are instantiated from a server-side meta data repository (*see* Stauber para. 0137).

Applicant respectfully submits that these disclosures of Stauber neither teach nor suggest using a client-side COM object as a complete object interface. Moreover, as Stauber emphasizes advantages of the architecture based in-part upon having the business object layer on the server-side (*e.g.,* paras. 0084, 0104, 0107), Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to re-engineer the architecture to instantiate the company object on the remote platform (*i.e.* client system).

Nor does the combination of Stauber with Saran teach such a configuration. Saran discloses a scalable business platform which includes a data manager component 44 to query and update a database 40 (*see* Saran para. 0016). The business platform includes the business logic API to enable an external application or system (*i.e.,* client) to communicate with the platform (*see* Saran para. 0103).

Nor does the combination of Stauber and Saran with Kasametty suggest modifying Stauber to instantiate the company object on the client system.

In view of these remarks, reconsideration of each of the amended claims and withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections are requested. Consideration on the merits for newly added claims 46-60 is also requested.

Applicants authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees determined to be due with the exception of the issue fee and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4209 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4. This sheet replaces the original sheet including FIG. 4. In Figure 4, "Properties 410" is relabeled "Properties 440," as identified in paragraph [0032] of the application.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG. 4

310

Company Object

Methods 410

Connect 411
Disconnect 413
GetBusinessObject 415
GetCompanyList 417
GetLastError 419
StartTransaction 421

Properties ~~410~~ 440

AttachMentPath 441
CompanyDB 443
CompanyName 445
Language 447
Password 449
Server 451
UserName 453
UserSignature 455
UseTrusted 457

Events 460

Progress Indicator 461